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Farewell To Student Indiscipline

POSITIVE STEPS SHOW RESULTS

By PRATAP C. DUTTA

Examinations have been over. The results are being published. The atmosphere in our Universities and colleges this year is calm and quiet. This is in refereshing contrast to the tension-ridden climate during the past few years when walk-outs from examinations and picketing of examination halls, attacks on invigilators and superintendents, burning of question papers and violent street demonstrations were the order of the day.

The educational institutions till last year were in turmoil. Perhaps some of the grievances of the students were genuine. Inflation had hit them and their parents; they felt hard-pressed by the prohibitive costs of education. Tuition fees were being raised. Paper prices were up and so also the cost of white printing paper, consequently text-books and exercise books cost a good deal more and even then there was a permanent shortage.

To make matters worse, mess bills in hostels were being raised, in some cases to double the usual charges, while due to the adulterated supply of foodgrains from the market, the quality of food served to resident students remained sub-standard The year 1974 saw grave student unrest and stagnation of academic activities in four States, Gujarat, Bihar, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

The general situation on the academic front had become a matter of national concern. People wondered where it should all lead to. Student discontent came handy to political agitators who made capital out of the situation for their own ends.

While Government was determined to deal with unruly agitators, the Prime Ministet has at the same time emphasised the need to apply the human touch. Students' grievances had to be analysed in depth and positive steps launched to remove their genuine grievances. In her broadcast to the Nation on the 20-point programme on the first of July last year, the Prime Minister set forth these guidelines: "students from poor families face special diffi culties if they pursue higher studies away from their homes. To help them, essential commodities will be supplied at controlled prices to all hostels and approved lodging houses. Another measure in the educational field will be to ensure that text books and stationery are made available at reasonable prices to all schools and colleges and university students, Prices will be strictly controlled and book banks established."

It was not the first time that Shrimathi Gandhi had acted for the removal of students' difficulties. In June 1974, the Centre had asked the State Governments to ensure a supply of 80 kg. of foodgrains at controlled rate per student every year. Hostels in twenty two states get provisions at controlled rates through the public distribution.

In March 1975, the Centre advised the States to develop the consumer cooperatives in universities and college for more effective distribution of consumer articles. To speed up this process, the Union Government launched a scheme in

(Contd. on Page 7)

Words to Remember

[Excerpts from the speeches of the Prime Minister]

Speaking on the Solidarity Day, the Prime Minister said that until there was greater equality in the world—within the nations and between the nations—there would always be tension. While there was tension, the human race could not use its own potential for its own betterment and raising its life to new levels.

"And when I speak of new levels, I do not mean material good, but of becoming a better sort of person."

Only if people had a feeling that they had equal opportunities in the country would they have a feeling of solidarity with others.

"Just as we want to give equality to the different religions, it is equally important that greater equality should be given to those who have so far been under-privileged. That is why we feel that our fight and our struggle is not merely for our country but for all the under-privileged of the world."

"Just as freedom is indivisible so is this economic battle indivisible."

"This message of solidarity, "I hope," will be taken to every village in India and across the oceans and the lands to other countries so that all mankind can live in peace, in friendship and co-operation."

x x x

In a message to the meeting of Income-tax Commissioners, the Prime Minister said "while the fight against tax evasion cannot be relaxed, officials should make it easier for honest tax payers to comply with laws and procedures."

'There should be a sense of proportion in dealing with individual assessments" and the department should not assume that every assessee "is to be disbelieved."

"The average Indian tax payer is no more dishonest than his counter part else where." Tax laws should make compliance easier and evasion more difficult.

Procedures and regulations should be simplified so that tax-payers did not have to seek the help of professional consultants.

Efficient realisation of income tax and other taxes was an important element in plans to build a more egalitarian society.

x x x

Addressing a group of IPS probationers, the Prime Minister said the police must be friends of the people. Real law and order could be maintained only if the police had the people's cooperation and confidence. At the same time police personnel should be uncompromising in dealing with evil-doers.

"It has become a fashion to criticise Government. Any body standing for the Government was a bad person,"

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

True suffering does not know itself and never calculates. It brings its own joy which surpasses all other joys.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY May 30, 1976

J. P.'s NEW PARTY

Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan has started it again. He has announced the launching of a new political party.

It is not to consist of new elements with new ideals. The much discredited Congress (O), Bharatiya Lok Dal, Jan Sangh and the Socialist party are to unite to provide "a democratic national alternative" to the Congress Party (The DMK of Tamil Nadu is also expected to join it later).

Gandhian J.P. has chosen to call this unnamed conglomeration a unity of like-minded parties—Of course they are like-minded in removing Smt. Indira Gandhi from power.

Fortunately for the country, their mischief was nibbed in the bud. By declaring the emergency, the Prime Minister saved the country from anarchy.

J P. is not in a position to appreciate great progress made in on all fronts since the Opposition parties' bosses were detained. Even their own ranks are enjoying the benefits.

As the Prime Minister has pointed out, the nation's memory is not "so weak as to forget" what they have been saying only a few months back.

We have certainly "no money, time and strength to permit policies of disruption, which weaken the country's unity and threaten its independence."

The debate now on one-party or multiple party system is futile.

National Population Policy

By UPENDRA VAJPEYI

Judging from initial comments, the National Population policy announced by the Union Health and Family Planning Minister, Dr. Karan Singh on April 16, 1976, has received general acclamation.

For a proper appraisal of the Government's decision, it may be worthwhile to recount its salient features.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the announcement is raising the minimum age of marriage of girls from 14 to 18 and that of boys from 18 to 21. The States have been given the green signal to go in for compulsory sterilisation, with the stipulation that it shall be resorted to only in the case of parents who have three children or more, without any distinction of caste, creed or community.

Another important feature is that the representation in the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures has been frozen on the basis of the 1971 census. In all cases where population is a factor to be reckoned as in the allocation of Central Assistance of State Plans, the population figures of 1971 census, will continue to be followed. Eight percent of Central assistance to State Plans will be disbursed according to their specific performance in family planning.

The next aspect of the policy is regarding incentives. The monetary incentive for vasectomy and tubectomy has been increased on a uniform basis to 150 rupees for those having two children or less, 100 rupees with three children and 70 for those with four children or more. Full rebate will be allowed in income tax assessment for amounts given as donations for family planning purposes to Government, local bodies or any registered voluntary organisation approved for the purpose. Central employees' service and conduct rules will be suitably amended to make the employees conform to the small family norm.

Population education will become a part of school curriculam. Research in reproductive biology and contraception will be given special attention and the message of family planning through various media of communication will be intensified.

The States have been asked to develop their own motivational programme, such as preferential allotment of houses and loans and step up their efforts in the field of education of women. The question of compulsory registration of marriages is under active consideration of the Government.

Obviously, the announcement has not come too soon.

India's population since the beginning of this century has gone up by two and a half times from 238 million in 1901 to an estimated 600 million now. And one has to remember that the 238 million in 1901 also include people living in what is now Pakistan and Bangladesh. As the Minister pointed out in his policy statement, India today contains 15 percent of the world's population, with hardly 2.4 per cent of the world's land area. If the present rate of increase continues unchecked, our population at the turn of the century, that is, 25 years from now, would cross the staggering figure of 100 crores. Even if the recent intensification of the birth control measures were accounted, the ratio of births averted and fresh arrivals, seems to be in the ratio of 114. Understandably, Dr. Karan Singh remarked in his statement on April 16, 1976 that "only the fringe of the problem has been so far touched".

Raising the age of marriage, if taken seriously, may be the largest single contributor to the reduction in the birth rate. Assuming that 50 percent of the marriages, especially in rural areas, are taking place when the girl crosses the Sharda Act barrier and becomes 14, the proposed difference of four years might produce results which the last ten years of sterilisations, pills and other methods taken together could not achieve.

Compulsory sterilisation might create a number of problems. The Centre has done well not to go in for a national legislation, but it may not be able to keep itself completely insulated if the law and order machinery were to take over the responsibilities of health and family planning, with all its consequences.

The other features of the national population policy are welcome. The question of compulsory registration of marriage need not be kept pending. The registration would go a long way to make the decision in respect of raising the age of marriage, effective. The power of registration in a village may be given to the Panchayat to simplify the procedure.

In a country where 4,55,000 out of 5,67,169 villages still depend on ancient means of water supply which is not free from contamination, where electricity has to reach more than half the villages, with hardly 5,000 villages being electrified in a year, where total cotton weaving has grown at a rate of 1.3 per cent against the population growth of 1.7 per cent per annum and where 45 per cent of population according to the findings of the National Sample Survey conducted in 1971, are below the poverty line, family planning has to be made a way of life if the action is to survive.

Lessening Dependency On Artificial Fertilizer

Scientists from three agricultural research institutes will shortly begin a joint five-year project to lesson a farmer's dependency on artificial fertilizer for increased production of rice, a staple food for a growing and hungrier population.

Since 1973, the rise in petroleum prices has tripled the cost of artificial fertilizers whose manufacture depends on large amounts of fossil fuels. Poor farmers who rely on rice as the mainstay of their diet are the least able to meet the increased costs of fertilizer.

The newly approved project will investigate nitrogen fixation, a natural process whereby microbes growing near the roots of rice plants are able to convert inert nitrogen, a key factor in obtaining maximum yields of rice crops, into a form that provides nourishment for plants. Soybeans, peanuts, grasses and rice are able to carry on naturally the process of nitrogen fixation which is done artificially in large chemical factories in a high-temperature, high-pressure process. Some estimates reckon that conversion process at about 35 million tons, almost equal to the annual global output (40 million tons) of chemicals fertilizers.

This $ 1.3 million project, sponsored by UNDP and approved at the 21st Governing Council session aims to find out the how and the why of the process, so farmers may apply that knowledge in their cultivation of rice.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) of the Philippines, one of eight international agricultural research centres to which UNDP contributes, will implement the project in collaboration with Cornell University and the Boyce Thompson Institute. To learn more about nature's own chemistry, since 1962 IRRI scientists have been conducting soil fertility experiments in which 38 rice crops have been grown in one field without apparent decline in the field's fertility. While they have determined that nitrogen fixation occurs best when the rice fields are flooded with water, there is much not known about the process.

Past research has demonstrated that the free-living bacteria in the rice root zone, and not in the plant itself, are responsible

(Condt. on page 7)

20 POINT PROGRAMME : ACHIEVEMENTS — IV

Investment Procedures Liberalised

Liberalisation of industrial licensing policy has been undertaken to stimulate investment by small entrepreneurs and to ensure growth in priority areas and fuller utilisation of installed capacity. The main changes made are :

(i) Total exemption of small and medium entrepreneurs from licensing procedures in 21 major industries ;

(ii) Allowing undertakings in 29 selected industries to fully utilise their installed capacity even if in excess of their licensed capacity.

(iii) Diversification of production in certain industries within the overall licensed capacity.

(iv) Simplification of procedures for grant of licences to small and medium entrepreneurs based on the results obtained through their own R & D efforts. Additionally, industrial undertakings other than those coming within the purview of the MRTP Act or FERA companies would be allowed to set up capacities if based on technologies developed by any of the national laboratories of CSIR without having to take an industrial licence. This facility will also be available in respect of 'sponsored' research undertaken by national laboratories on behalf of such industrial undertakings.

(v) Simplification of procedures for rugularisation of additional capacity arising out of replacement and modernisation.

(vi) Allowing engineering industries to automatically increase their capacity by 25 per cent during a five-year period. This has been done in order to boost exports of this industry.

Various other measures have also been taken to improve the investment climate like amendment of the Companies (Temporary Restriction on Dividends) Act, 1974 relaxation of the "frequency tests" for issue of bonus shares, etc. Further steps to encourage investment by non-resident Indians have also been announced.

Review of the distribution and price controls has been undertaken in a number of industries. As a result, controls in various industries like aluminium, white printing paper, tyres and tubes, baby food, cement, agricultural tractors and commercial vehicles, razor blades, etc. have been relaxed.

Import and export policies have been liberalised. The Imports and Exports (Control) Act has been amended to deal more sternly with economic offences relating to import and export facilties.

New Scheme for Workers & Association in Industry.

A detailed scheme for workers' participation in industry at the shop floor and plant level was announced on 30th October 1975. The scheme provides for setting up Shop Councils and Joint Councils in manufacturing and mining industries employing 500 or more workers. Some State Governments like Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, etc. have extended the coverage of the scheme to units employing less than 500 workmen. The scheme was discussed in the meeting of the National Apex Body held on 29th November, 1975. 47 Central public sector undertakings have already put this scheme into effect. So far, the scheme has been implemented in over 200 undertakings.

National Permit Scheme for Road Transport.

For implementation of the National Permit Scheme for goods vehicles, the Motor Vehicles Act 1939 has been amended. Rules required to be framed under the amendment have also been published. Briefly, the scheme provides for issue of 5300 national permits which have been allotted State-wise. The permit would authorise a public carrier to operate throughout the country or in five or more contiguous States. To meet the social purpose underlying this scheme, it is proposed to reserve 25 per cent of the permits for new entrepreneurs including ex-Army personnal and unemployed drivers.

States are taking action for grant of permits. Over 500 permits have already been issued.

Income Tax relief to middle class - exemption limit placed at Rs. 8000/-.

The rates of income-tax at all levels of personal incomes had been reduced on the new Budget. The maximum marginal rate of income-tax, including surcharge, would be 66 per cent as against 77 per cent at present. In the case of individuals, the maximum marginal rate will become applicable on the slab of income over Rs. 100,000 as against Rs. 70,000 at present.

Comparative rates of income-tax on various slabs of income in the case of an individual are :

Income slab	Existing rate	Proposed rate
Upto Rs. 8000	Nil	Nil
Rs. 8,001-15,000	17%	15%
Rs. 15,001-20,000	20%	18%
Rs. 20,001-25,000	30%	25%
Rs. 25,001-30,000	40%	30%
Rs. 30,001-50,000	50%	40%
Rs. 50 001-70,000	60%	50%
Rs 70,001-1,00,000	70%	55%
Over Rs. 1,00,000	70%	60%

The ncome-tax calculated on the basis of the above rates

(Contd. on page 6)

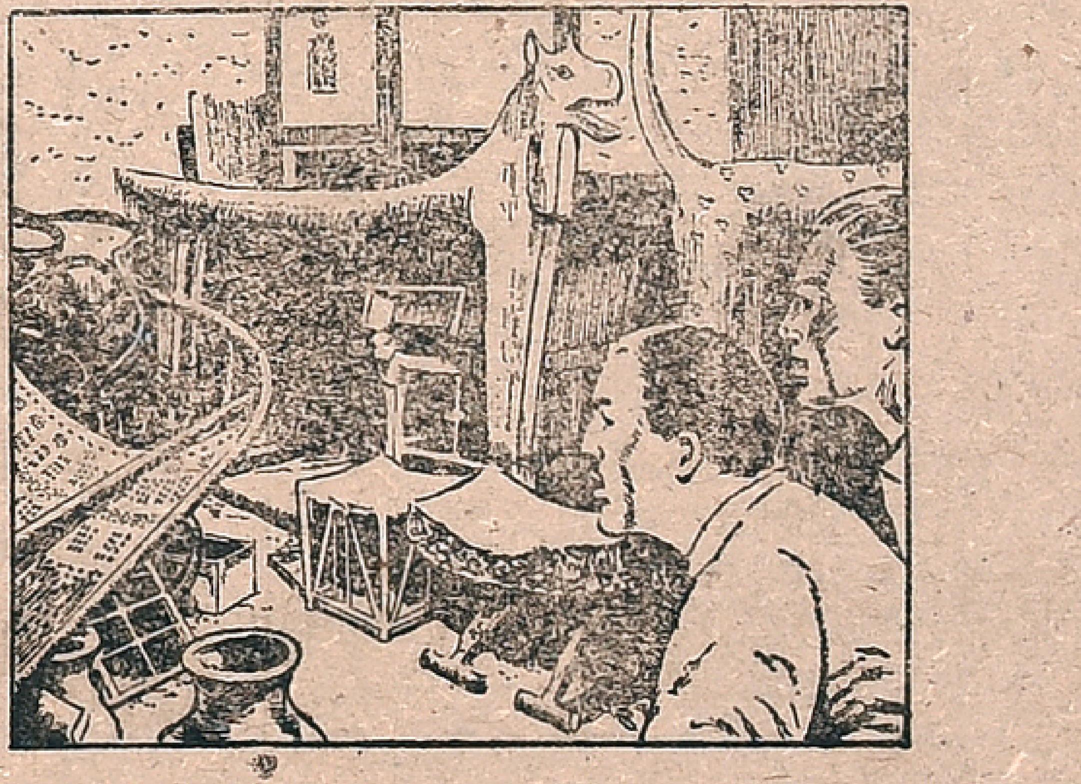
Famous Mysteries

Was There A Curse of the Pharaohs?

When the magnificent innermost coffin of solid gold was at last opened to reveal the swaddled mummy of the Pharoah, archaeologist Howard Carter, who had seen so many splendours emerge from the tomb of Tutankhamun, drew back in astonishment, for the head was protected with a burnished gold mask of superlative beauty.

Standing by ready to do an autopsy was Dr. Douglas Derry, surgeon and and anatomist. It took him some days to release and laboriously unwrap the naked body of a boy in his late teens. Soon after the world had a detailed report of every feature of the young king's body.

The presence of a small spot like a scab on his left cheek in front of the ear lobe was startling and immediately revived feverish interest in the fabled Curse of the Pharaohs. This was November 1925 and two years earlier Lord Carnarvon, while leaving the tomb, had been bitten by a mosquito in approximately the same place.



The bite resulted in his death and people recalled ancient inscriptions threatening death to "the living who come to violate the tombs" which Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter had ignored when they had broken a hole in the wall of the antechamber to the tomb and gazed in awe at the treasure inside.

(Contd. on next page)

FUN AND LAUGHTER

HIS BUSINESS

A disturbed salesman, reporting to his superior as to why he had not been able to make an important sale, said: "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."

The sales manager replied: "Brimstone and blaze! Who in thunder told you to make him drink? Your job is to make him *thirsty!*"

* * *

CATASTROPHE

"A terrible catastrophe, Sir," the beggar replied. "Two years ago, like you, I enjoyed prosperity. I worked hard. On the wall above my desk was the motto: "Think Constructively! Act Decisively!" Wealth poured my way. And then...one night..."

"Yes, yes?"

The unfortunate One's frame shook convulsively. "The janitor burned my motto."

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OBLIGING

A long-suffering diner noted that his coffee was served without a spoon.

"This coffee," he remarked pointedly, "is going to be pretty hot to stir with my finger."

A short time later the waiter returned to the table with another cup of coffee.

"May be this isn't so hot, sir," he said.

* * *

SMART LAD!

A boy rushed into the drawing-room to his mother carrying a dead rat by the tail 'Oh, mother," he exclaimed excitedly, "we had a fearful time killing this rat. We biffed him, and hit him, and whacked him, and stamped on him, and then—(here his eye fell on the rector, who had dropped in for tea)—and then God called him home!"

* * *

EXPLANATION

The professor of chemistry was giving a demonstration of the properties of various acids.

"Now," he said. "I am going to drop this silver dollar into this glass of acid. Will it dissolve?"

"No, sir," replied one of the students.

"No? said the demonstrator. "Then perhaps you will explain to the class why it won't dissolve."

"Because," came the answer, "if it would, you wouldn't drop it in."

CLEVER TRICK!

It was a hot day. The bus was packed with passengers. Everyone was irritable. Suddenly, the voice of a civilian rose loud and clear 'Will some pretty girls please get off at the next stop so that about 60 of these soldiers will leave?"

* * *

GOODBYE TO GOD!

The family was emigrating under the Government scheme, and the night before they left the little girl was saying her prayers. She ended up: "And now goodbye, God—we are going to Australia tomorrow."

* * *

THE IRRESISTIBLE QUEUE

For hours a Bucharest citizen waited for his wife to return from a shopping expedition. She had left early in the morning; and, at last, after endless queueing, returned with an empty basket "This is the limit," cried her husband, and, sticking a revolver in his belt, exclaimed, "I'll shoot her."

"Shoot whom?" murmured the terrified wife.

"Why, Anna Pauker, of course. So long as she governs the country, we shall always have useless queues and poverty."

Two hours later he returned to his grief-stricken wife.

"Well," she whimpered, "did you shoot her?"

"No," came the reply. "Even for that there was a queue."

Successful Day

Starting from his house one very wet morning he discovered that five of his umbrellas required repairing. On the impulse of the moment he took all five and left them at a repair shop near his office.

Later that day, having finished his lunch in a restaurant, he rose and automatically grasped the umbrella leaning against the table. Whereupon the young lady sitting opposite him informed him that he had taken her umbrella.

On the way home in the bus, with his five repaired umbrellas up against the seat he looked up from his paper and met the eyes of the young lady who had been in the restaurant. She smiled at him and looking him straight in the eyes said, knowingly, "You have had a successful day, to day, haven't you?"

LEAVE MY NOSE!

Barber: "Will you have anything on your face when I've finished?"

Customer: "I don't know, but try to leave at least my nose."

* * *

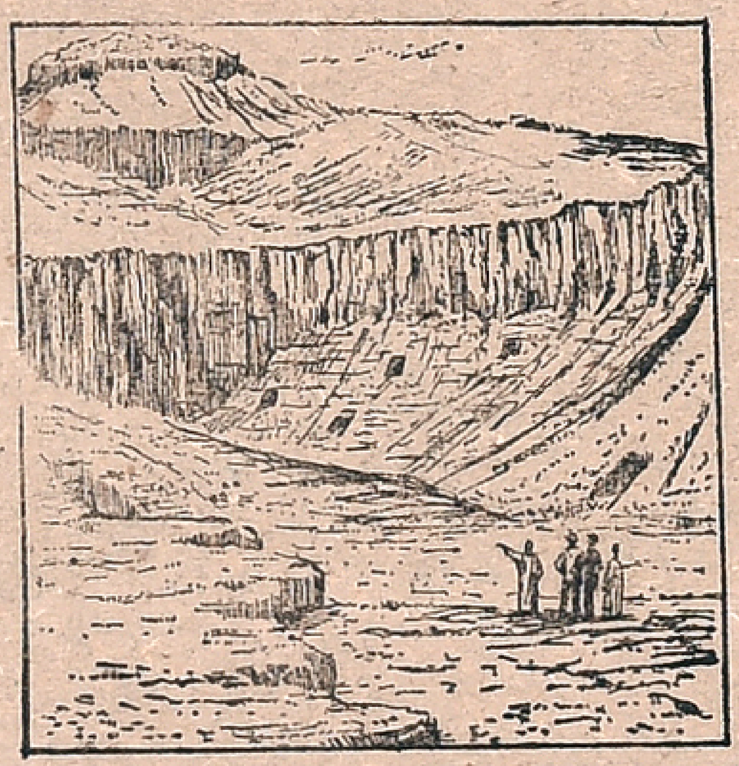
WRONG NUMBER

"My son doesn't want to get married."

"Yeah? Well, wait until the wrong girl comes along."

From previous page

Famous Mysteries

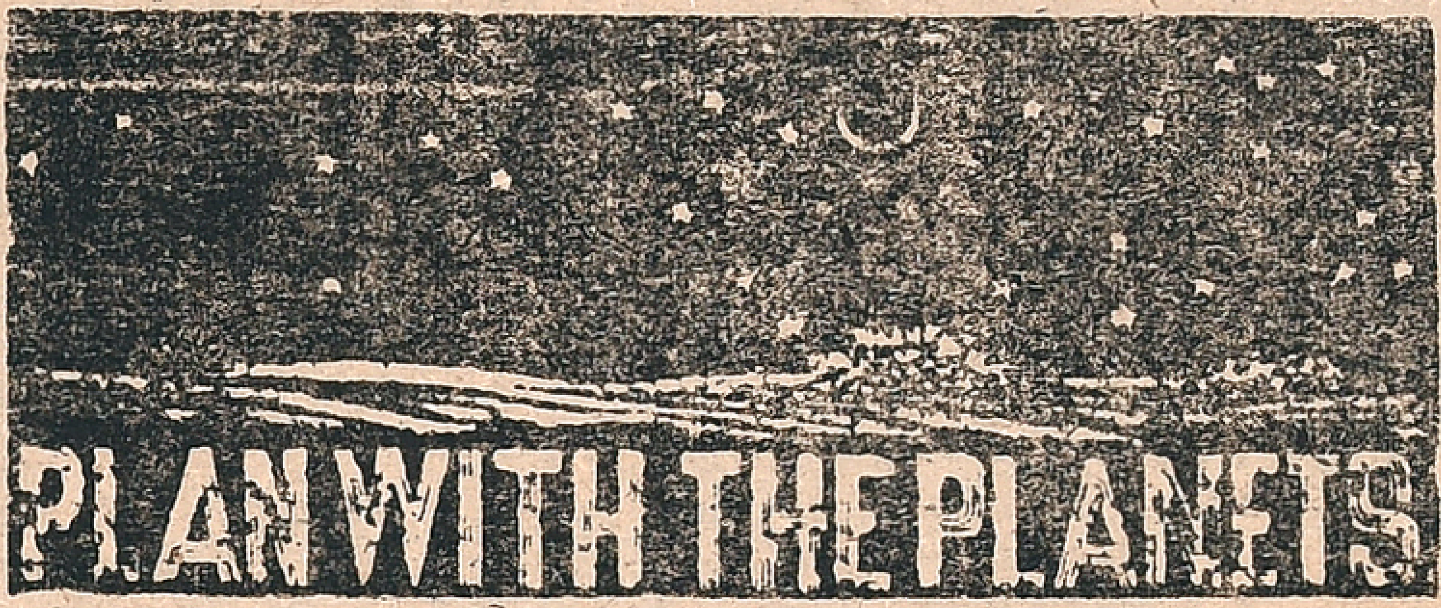


Carnarvon had first started searching for the tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt in 1909 with dedicated self-taught archaeologist Howard Carter in charge of excavations. Winter after winter Carter would travel backwards and forwards across the Nile from Luxor to the lonely site at ancient Thebes.

In November 1922, their concession to dig from the Egyptian Government about to expire, Carter estimated they had moved 200,000 tons of rubble and sand without success. Just when it seemed he would have to leave the valley where he had worked off and on for 20 years, Carter exposed a flight of steps.

He wired his patron in England immediately and Carnarvon, accompanied by his daughter, hastened to Luxor where newspapermen and sightseers were already causing problems in their anxiety to see the site. After he had seen the treasures of the antechamber and returned to England Carnarvon received a message from a clairvoyant.

Carnarvon, who was very interested in the occult, was warned that he would sicken and die in Egypt if he entered the tomb. Quite worried, he consulted a palmist who observed some strange spots on the earl's lifeline, and looking into his crystal saw pictures on an Egyptian theme which he said were ominous.



For The Week 30th May To 5th June 1976

MESHA

MILDLY favourable period. You should try to implement your plans. You should not be discouraged due to opposition and discouragement. Finalise your programme as early as possible. You will be able to reap the benefits later. You should also try to improve your financial position. Speculative gains are indicated in the near future. Avoid arguments with family members and associates. Health requires attention. Avoid journeys. Favourable days 30th & 31st.

★

RISHABA

FAVOURABLE period to finalise your programme You should be able to solve your financial problems. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Avoid friction with associates. You should be able to finalise property transactions favourably. Problems are indicated due to transport and communication. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days 1st & 2nd.

★

MITHUNA

YOU should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Planetary positions are not favourable for you till middle of June. Health require attention. Avoid journeys. And also avoid friction with associates. You should consult experts before deciding important matters. Financial position is not satisfactory. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You cannot expect much cooperation from family members. Favourable days 3rd & 4th.

KATAKA

PLANETARY position is not favourable. You should be cautious in handling all important matters. You should take extra precaution regarding health. Problems are also indicated due to partnership matters. Financial position will not be satisfactory. Speculative activities should be avoided Change of place is indicated. You may be undertaking a journey shortly due to business matter. Favourable days 4th & 5th.

★

SIMHA

MILDLY favourable period. Your efforts will be rewarded in a couple of months. You should proceed further in implementing your plans and you should not be discouraged due to delays and opposition. Financial position will improve. You should also try to start new ventures now. But avoid complications in partnership matters. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complication. Frequent journeys are indicated. Favourable days 30th & 31st.

★

KANYA

MIXED results are indicated. You may be undertaking a journey shortly due to business matters. Favourable period to finalise your programme to visit foreign countries. You should also try to make arrangements to start new ventures. Avoid speculations. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Partnership matters require attention. Favourable days 1st & 2nd.

★

THULA

MILDLY favourable period. But you should avoid speculations. Financial position will not be satisfactory. Your efforts will be rewarded after some time. You should not be discouraged due to delays and opposition. If you are planning to visit foreign countries, you should finalise your programme as early as possible. You can also finalise your programme to start new ventures. Avoid complications with partners. Health require attention. Favourable days; 3rd & 4th.

★

VRISCHIKA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. You should try to finalise partnership matters. You should also try to start new ventures now. Financial position will improve. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Avoid friction with associates. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complication. Avoid speculations. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 30th & 31st.

★

DHANUR

MIXED results are indicated. Family matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Business matters require extra attention. Change of place is indicated for some. You should be cautious while undertaking journey. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Partnership matters should be handled properly. Health require attention. Avoid impulsive action on 1st & 2nd.

★

MAKARA

FAVOURABLE period to make changes to improve your position. You should start

(Contd. on page 6)

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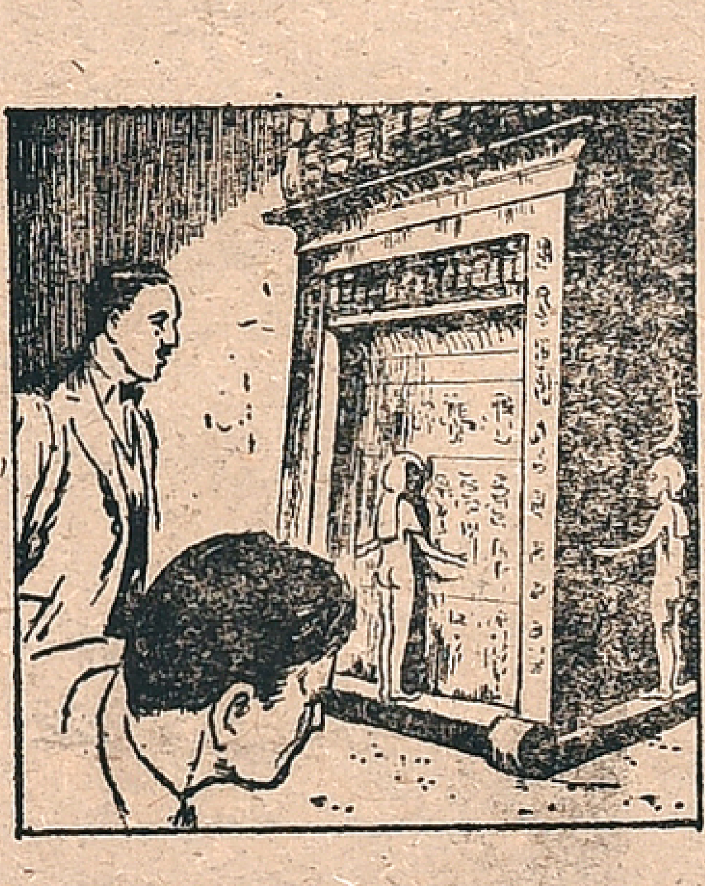
Was There A Curse of the Pharaohs ?



When Carter had recorded all the precious contents of the antechamber and was ready to break open the sealed door to an inner chamber Carnarvon, ignoring, the prophecy, was in the official party He and Carter were the first to enter the Burial Chamber of the Pharaoh for over 3000 years.

Lord Carnarvon was not destined to know all the wonders of the chamber. That mosquito bite turned septic, fever set in his daughter moved him to Cairo and sent for his son. A few minutes after his death at 1.55 a.m. on April 5, 1923, every light in the city failed.

No one could account for the sudden power blackout in all four sections of Cairo, nor later why the family dog at home in England should have howled inconsolably at the moment of his master's death, but the newspapers were full of stories of the vengence taken by King Tutankhamun because his sacred remains had been disturbed.

Two egyptologists from museums in Paris and New York who had joined Carter's team also died in strange circumstances and the legend was established. While Carter was still alive he was not untouched by strange events. His horrified servant once watched a cobra drag Carter's pet canary from its cage and devour it.

(Contd on next page)

From page 3

will be increased by a surcharge of 10 per cent of such income-tax.

A country-wide survey has been undertaken to discover new assessees. As a result, 2,40,000 assessees have been brought within the tax net.

Essential commodities at controlled prices to students in hostels.

Adequate arrangements for supply of essential commodities to students in hostels/lodgings through cooperatives have been made. Branches of consumer cooperatives have been opened in university campus and in some cases separate consumer cooperatives have also been organised with students, teachers, etc. as members.

The scheme for supply of essential commodities now covers about 6138 student hostels benefiting about 762,000 students.

Books and stationery at controlled prices.

Text books and exercise books are now freely available in all parts of the country. Reduction in prices of text books and exercise books has been possible because of supply of white printing paper at concessional rates. The reports from States indicate that there has been a significant reduction in prices of text books. In some States prices have stabilised at the 1973 level despite the rise in printing costs. Revised rate structure of standardised exercise books has been introduced from 1-1-76 and this had led to a further reduction in prices by 4% to 7%.

Book banks have been opened to provide relief to poor students particularly those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The number of book banks functioning both in colleges and schools are 74,868.

Protective Plastic

SCIENTISTS at the U. S. Energy Research and Development Administration's Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are constantly looking for ways to prevent the theft of nuclear materials. It is a very valid concern because a by-product of the electric power-producing reactors is the basic material that goes into an atomic bomb. With that material at hand, just about and skilled physicist can build a crude but dangerous nuclear weapon.

One material that is being investigated at Sandia Laboratories is a clear plastic, like the plastic that is used to wrap bread and other foods. The plastic—polyvinylidene fluoride—generates an electric current when it is sobiected to pressure or temperature changes. Dr. Glen Kepler of the Sandia Laboratories told a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society that it might be possible to coat floors, walls and ceilings with thin films of this material. When connected to appropriate sensors the plastic film could serve as a burglar alarm system, setting off an alarm as soon as an intruder exerted the slightest pressure on it.

According to Dr. Kepler, the material is extremely sensitive. The pressure of a footstep or a one-degree change in temperature is enough to produce a detectable electrical signal. But as soon as the pressure or the temperature change disappears, the material reverts to its normal state. The scientists are still testing the material to see if its ability to produce an electrical signal will degrade with time.

The thin plastic film is made sensitive to pressure and temperature changes by exposing it to a large electric field at temperatures just above ninety degrees Celsius. The joint effect of the heat and electric field aligns tiny crystals in the plastic material. When pressure is applied or the temperature is changed, the electric field produced by these crystals will change and create the electric current.

The heat-sensitive plastic film already has at least one commercial application. As a very sensitive heat detector it is well for use in fire alarm systems.

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Birthday Blade

Fakir Ali Ben Camelia—he is really Swiss citizen Camille Rossier—has been swallowing razor blades and other sharp things since 1942. He celebrated his fiftieth birthday by swallowing his 50,000th blade in the presence of witnesses.

From page 5

planning for long term projects. Your efforts of the last two years will be rewarded, in the near future. Financial position will improve. You should change your programmes to suit the improved relationship with superiors and you try to get maximum benefit. Partnership matters should be handled properly. Be prepared for unexpected developments on 3rd & 4th.

★

KUMBA

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid further complications. Financial position will improve. Health require attention. Business matters should be handled properly to avoid further complications. Avoid friction with associates. You Should take extra precaution while travelling. Favourable days: 1st & 2nd.

★

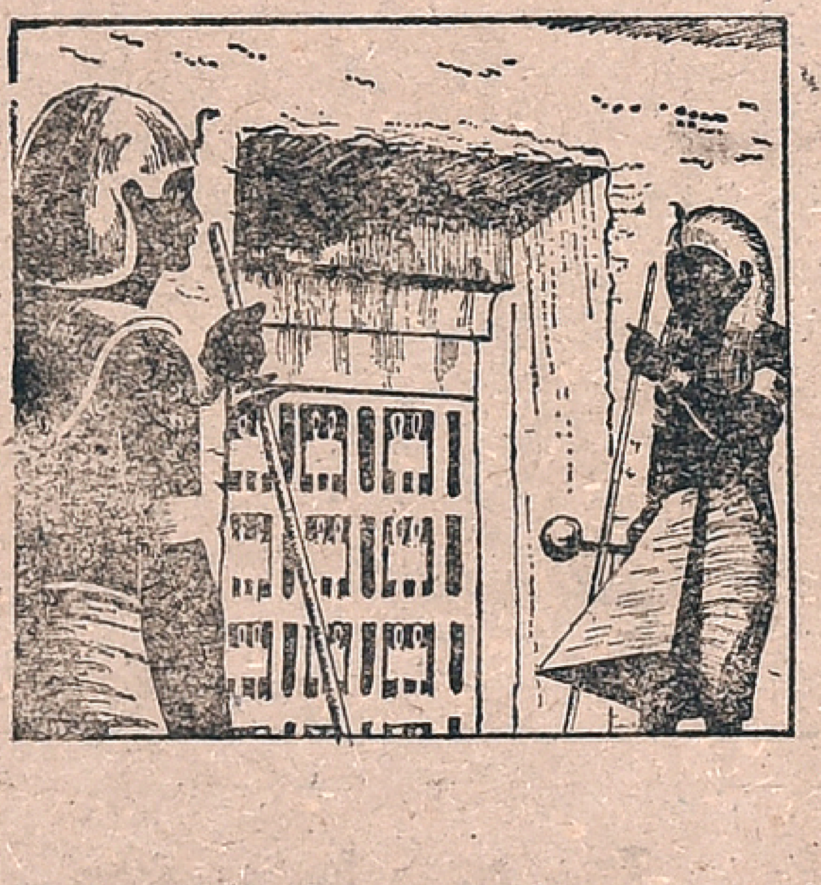
MEENA

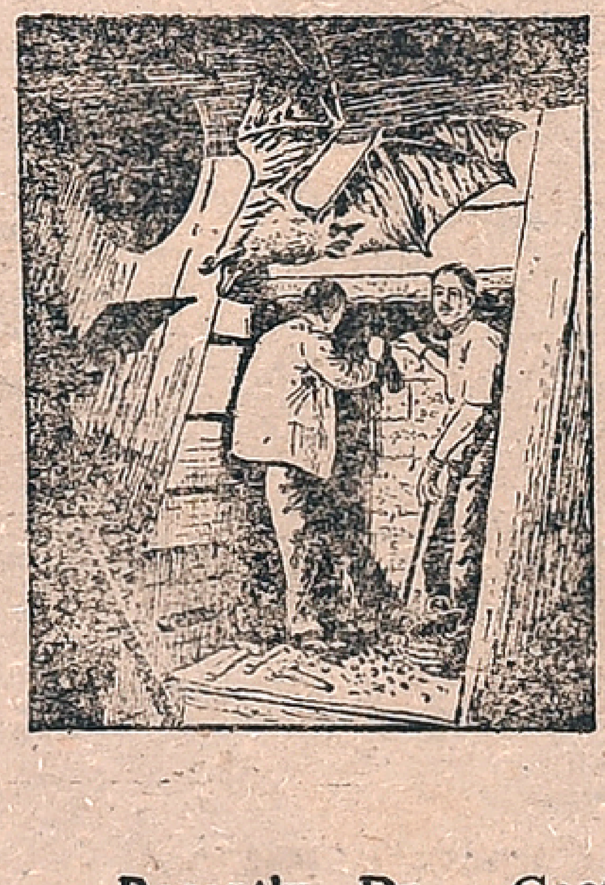
PLANETARY positions are not favourable. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. Partnership matters require attention. You will be able to solve some of your problems during the second half of June. You should not be discouraged due to the present conditions. You can expect cooperation from family members in solving some of your problems. Financial position will improve. But you should avoid speculative investments. Favourable days : 3rd & 4th.

From previous page

Famous Mysteries

Was There A Curse of the Pharaohs?





The Egyptian workers firmly believed this to be part of the "curse" for the sacred cobra in ancient Egypt was the guardian of the king, and the two statues which guarded the door to the inner chamber had serpents' heads on their foreheads. Naturally the story spread like a fire.

An Egyptian Government official brought to the valley a famous snake charmer who drew from the dark vaults of the tomb a cobra and a grass snake. No satisfactory explanation could be given for how they had got there. Superstitions rew. The death of anyone associated with the tomb was always news.

Recently Dr. Geoffrey Dean put forward the theory that Carnarvon and others died from cave disease, caused inhaling dust from fungus formed by bats' droppings. Others could have become immune after mild attacks. Egyptians who had worked with Carter as young men told the doctor bats often got into the opened tomb.

Even if this were so it still leaves many strange occurrences, many fears and forebodings unaccounted for. "To speak the name of the dead is to make them live" said ancient funeral inscriptions. Carter and Carnarvon made Tutankhamun's name "live", but did the manner of doing so provoke the Curse of the Pharaohs? —END

NEXT WEEK:—THE SHIP THAT VANISHED

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE TO THE TASHKENT FILM FESTIVAL

Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in a message of greetings to the participants and guests of the Fourth International Film Festival which opened in Tashkent, last week has stressed that "in the present day conditions when the relaxation of tensions has become dominant in international relations, cinematography is called upon to play a particularly important role in cultural exchange, in bringing peoples closer together, in opposing international reaction."

Leonid Brezhnev pointed out that the "Tashkent international meetings of cinematographers exerted in the past and will invariably exert in future a positive influence on the consolidation of the forces of cinematographers in the struggle for peace, peoples's freedom and social progress."

V.C. Shukla, India's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, is leading the Indian delegation to the Festival.

India has entered two feature films in the festival—Bengali film 'Sansar Samante" produced by Tarun Majumdar and the Kannada film 'Hamsa Geet" produced by G.V. Iyer.

Three Indian documentaries "Man in Search of Man", "Damyanti Joshi" and "Painter of the People" will also be shown at the Festival.

* * *

THROUGH THE FROZEN SEAS

Soviet ships were already early in April discharging equipment for the gasfields of the Yamal Peninsula, inside the Arctic Circle.

This has never been done before; the Arctic sea route is not normally open until July or August.

It took the nuclear icebreker *Lenin* and the diesel-electric *Pavel Ponomarev* eleven days to battle through the ice of the Barents and Kara seas and reach Cape Kharasevel.

From there two "roads", cut by bulldozers through the piled up offshore ice stretch to the mainland.

It took four weeks to make these roads, the final stretches being plotted with special care so that they should not give way under the weight of the 4,000 tons of cargo the Ponomarev brought.

This cargo includes bulldozers and tractors, prefabricated houses and bricks and other materials to build a settlement for the gasfield workers.

The Yamal Peninsula has much natural gas, but it is extremely costly to bring equipment to exploit it overland because of the great distances and lack of roads in the Far North.

And even in summer vessels cannot reach the shores because of the shallow water and frequent gales.

Hence the decision to ship cargoes in winter and land them on offshore ice.

The cost of the operation is expected to be only half what it costs to bring in equipment by plane or helicopter, the most usual way hitherto.

* * *

SHE IS AN ANTI-PRODIGY

"Julia Demenkova, a schoolgirl from Ufa, is holding her fifth one-man show. A book of her drawings is coming out soon..."

That news item didn't arouse a great deal of enthusiasm in me, for today people are suspicious about children's talent: they are all infant prodigies nowadays!

All the same, I thought I'd go and take a look at the young artist and her drawings.

Julia Demenkova has blue eyes and skinny knees. The only difference you can see between her and her schoolmates is that she has her hair in a plait down to her waist, and they have theirs bobbed.

She told me her first show took place when she was nine. A bookshop put some of her drawings in the window, it was mentioned in the local papers and on the radio.

Later they were shown at her school and in camps were she spent her holidays.

THERE ISN'T ANY FUSS

So what, I can hear you saying is all the fuss about?

The point is, there isn't any fuss. They've held exhibitions of children's drawings if Ufa, because children—and grown-ups—like them.

And Julia does so many drawings that you can always pick out enough for an interesting exhibition. She's done hundreds, if not thousands.

She's been drawing steadily since she was three, mostly illustrating books she's read—Russian fairy tales, Winnie-the Pooh, Mowgli, and a tale, Nelson and Cat, she wrote herself for her sister.

She loves drawing children, and plainly has an observant eye, a sense of composition and an unbridled imagination. But she doesn't think she'll become a professional artist.

Then why write about her?

Because she's an anti-infant prodigy: just someone getting enjoyment out of her talent.

Julia's father is an engineer, her mother a kindergarten teacher.

They don't make her draw. Nobody does. She draws because she wants to.

Nobody tells her to keep her drawings. If she likes, she can give them away, because she can always sit down and do some more.

I've no idea if she will become an artist or not. At least nobody is forcing her to.

And what does it matter as long as drawing makes her happy?

From page 2

fixing nitrogen. The UNDP project will investigate the nature of these microbes and the chemistry of the reaction they cause. The researchers want to know if different varieties of soil and strains of rice can increase the amount of nitrogen made avaliable as nourishment to the plant

In certain IRRI experiments as much as 60 kilograms of nitrogen were fixed per hectare. Current recommended nitrogen fertilizer application rates for various varieties of rice vary from 40 to 100 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare. Finding out which rice strains fix more nitrogen could raise crop yields significantly.

With the world's present population of 4 billion expected to reach almost 7 billion by the end of the century, this research could open the way for increased rice production with financial savings and the conservation of fuels now used in chemical fertilizer production. Moreover, since the nitrogen that is fixed in the root zone will not be leached from the soil to pollute the surrounding bodies of water, this method is also ecologically desirable.

At its Los Banos centre IRRI will experiment in the field and in green-houses to see what varieties of rice fix nitrogen at a higher rate than usual. Cornel-University will study the bacteria responsible for nitrogen fixas tion and will attempt to isolatl and characterize them. Scientists from Canada, Australia, the United States and Brazil have already expanded the knowledge of this process. An enzyme catalyst called nitrogenase, they found out, is central to the process. This two-component protein adds hydrogen atoms to the nitrogen gas from the air, turning the inert nitrogen into plant food.

From Page 1

April, 1975 for the supply of essential consumer articles to hostels in universities and degree colleges through consumer co-operatives in 43 selected cities. Later, the scheme was widely extended. The commodities supplied include foodgrains, spices, vanaspati, edible oils, tea, coffee, soap, sugar, bread, eggs, controlled cloth, salt, hosiery goods, cycle tubes and tyres, paper, books and stationery.

Under the 20 point programme, consumer articles are supplied to some 4000 hostels in degree colleges and universities, through 134 cooperatives in 12 States and four Union Territories. Nearly 3 lakh students benefit from this. During July-October, 1975 essential commodities worth over 75 lakh rupees were supplied to hostels.

To remedy the shortage of exercise books and textbooks, Government persuaded the paper industry to manufacture two lakh tonnes of white printing paper for distribution to the educational sector and Government units. A National Committee was set up at the Centre to co-ordinate State-wise distribution. State level committees supervise distribution within the States.

The shortage of exercise books and text-books has been overcome. By the use of cheaper paper, prices too have come down by four to seven per cent in the last four months. The mills are bound by an agreement to give a further rebate of ten per cent on orders from educational institutions.

Another very significant step is the establishment of book banks. These banks supply books free of charge to poor students. At the school level, some 80 lakh students are getting free books. The scheme has been extended to a higher level.

The University Grants Commission gives grants for this purpose. The minimum grant is 10,000 rupees for a college with 250 or less than 500 students. The allocation it raised as the enrolment goes up. These banks and grants are given by the U.G.C. for gymnasia, study centres and Student's Homes. The UGC has allocated six crore rupees for student services and welfare programmes under the Fourth Plan.

These ameliorative measures have reduced the hardship of the students' under which they were smarting for several years. Naturally they are no longer angry and their youthful enthusiasm has been diverted to constructive channels.

That's not all. Shrimati Gandhi's clarion call has given the young hopefuls a sense of healthy participation in national reconstruction and inclucated in them a sense of responsibility as the up and coming leaders of tomorrow. This welcome switch-over from turmoil to tranquility in seats of learning is a promising development that augurs well for the nation's future.

Film News And Reviews

"Vazhve Mayam"

Bharathi creations are Producing the Malayalam hit "Vazhve Mayam" in Tamil.

Muthuraman and Sujatha are in the leading roles. Others in the cast are Sundararajan, V.S. Raghavan, Surilirajan, Sukumari, Srikanth, Jayalakshmi and Kanaka Durga.

A. Bhim Sing directs and "Vietnam Veedu" Sundaram writes the dialogues.

Miural and Rajaram are the Producers.

Jayachitra in Duel Role

M.M.A. Chinappa Dever has assigned duel role to Jayachitra in his Thandayudhapani films latest colour production "Thayilla Kuzhanthai" in Tamil.

A.V.M. Rajan, Vijayakumar, Jai Ganesh, Sundararajan, Nagesh, and Asokan are in the cast.

Sankar-Ganesh will be setting to turns the lyrics composed by Kannadasan. Ramamurthi is the director of Photography.

Chinnappa Devar is writing the story and dialogue of the film to be short entirely on outdoor locations. R. Thiagarajan directs.

"Mahalakshmi"

Arumugam Arts' maiden Venture in Colour, Tamil, "Mahalakshmi" was inaugurated last week at A.V.M. Studios.

Well known producer Sundarlal Nahata switched on the camera as K. Nandagopal, a leding film distributor, clapped.

Jaisankar and Sangita took part in the inaugural scenes that were filmed on the occasion.

Asokan, Subbiah, Thengai Srinivasan, Pandari Bai and Manorama are in the cast.

Vietnam Veedu Sundaram is write the dialogues. M. S. Viswanathan is the music director.

Gemini Colour Lab will be processing the film to be shot with ORWO Colour Negative.

N. Arumugam is the producer.

—

Punitha Anthoniar

Muthuraman is acting as Saint Antoni in Jaysree Nanjil Inc.'s "Punitha Anthoniar".

Producer director Nanjil Durai is planning to take the film on a big scale.

It has a lengthy cast. Major Sundararajan, Manohar, Thengai Srinivasan, Srikanth, Jestine, Isarivelan, I. S. R., Lakshmi, Jayachitra, Pramela, Padmini, Pandari Bai and Savitri are in it.

P. T. Swami is writing the dialogue. Kannadasan is writing the verses and M. S. Viswanathan is in charge of Music. Director of photography is G. R. Nathan.

—

Chonnathai Seiven

Maruthamalai Art Movies' have named their Production as "Chonnathai Seiven". Krishnan Panju have been entrusted with the directorial responsibility.

Sujatha and Sivakumar have been teamed together. Jayalakshmi, Manorama, Sukumari, V. K. Ramaswami and Jayachandran are in supporting roles.

Story and dialogue are by Mahendran and Kumar composes the music.

Maruthi Rao is in charge of photography.

Sivaji Ganesan as he appears in the film "Nam Pirantha Mann."

"Uzhaikkum Karangal"

A spectacular silambu fight and fine Sivathandavam dance by the matinee idol M. G. Ramachandran, good photography by P. L. Roy and pleasing music by M. S. Viswanathan are the highlights of Kaycee Films' "Uzaikkum Karangal", which is sure to be a box office hit.

It narrates the story of a young man who defends the poor, upholds justice and avenges the wrong. He through perseverence exposes the frauds and brings the offenders to book.

M. G. R. has done the hero's role with his usual dash and ease. Latha is the village belle with whom he falls in love. Padmini and newface Bhavani acts as the two girls who fall for him. "Thengai" Srinivasan and Nagesh provide the fun which is enjoyable. Thangavelu is the unscrupulous rich village head. Pandari Bai is the loving mother of Rangan, the hero and V. S. Raghavan and V. Gopalakrishnan are the ardent followers and admirers of Rangan.

Director Shankar has adopted safely the box office formula. Nanjil Manoharan has written the story and dialogue which are topical.

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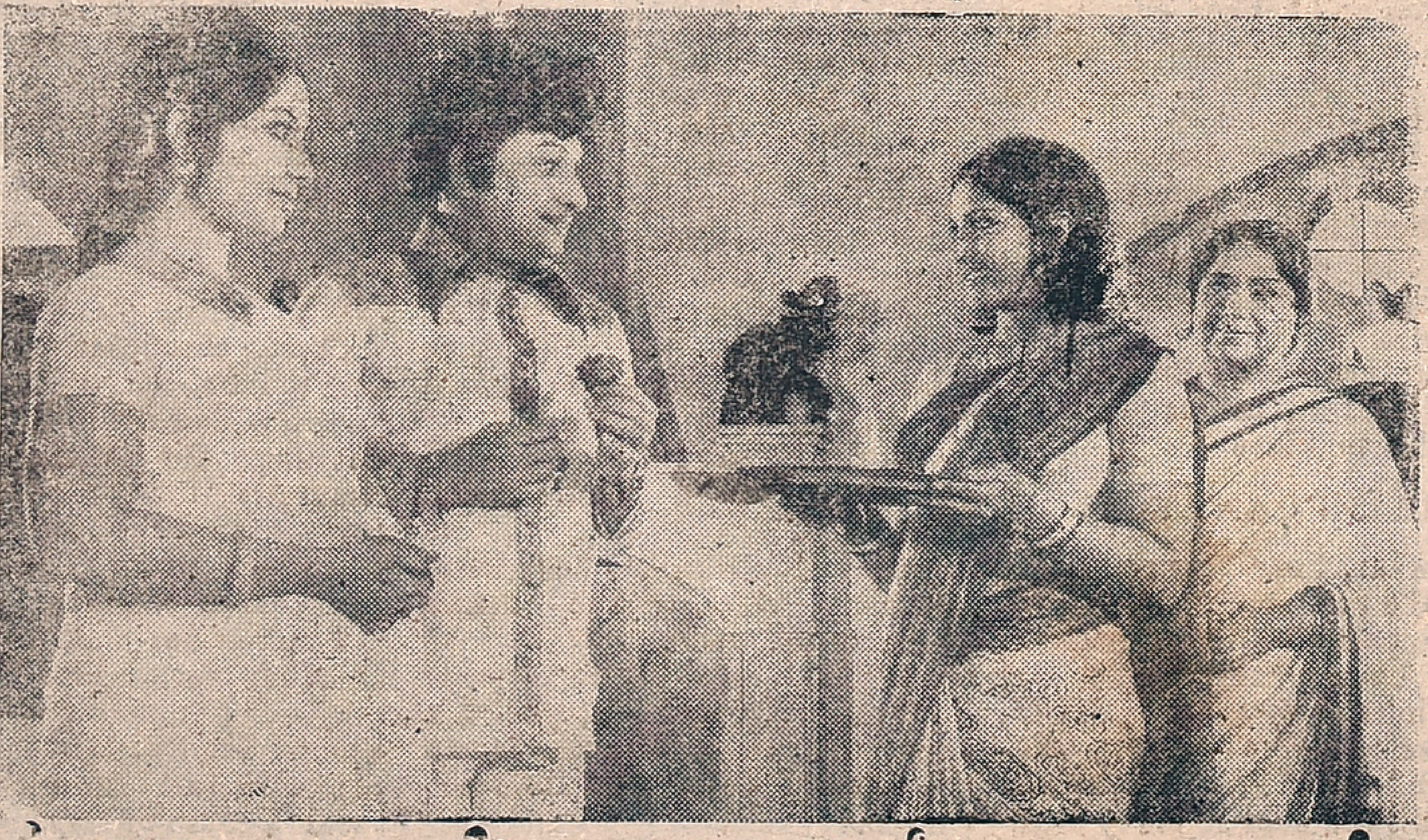

Latha, M. G. Ramachandran, newface Sangita and Pandari Bai in Jeyar Movies' Tamil film.

Sri Rama Hanuman Yuddham

A noval story that does not find a place in Valmiki or Kamba Ramayanams has been made into a fine film under the title "Sri Rama Hanuman Yuddham" by T V S. Vijayakumar's production.

Gorgeous sets, sparkling costumes and delightful tunes make it a fine entertaining film.

N.T. Rama Rao as Rama, Saroja Devi as Sita and Janarthana Rao as Hanuman have given impressive performances.

It is well directed by Baba.

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